

Sheep and Lamb Inventory

Sheep and lamb inventory in the United States totaled 7.77 million head on July 1, 2006. This is a slight decrease from 7.80 million head in July 2005. Market sheep and lamb inventory dropped 10,000 from one year ago, to 3.14 million head. Market lamb inventory consists of 1.80 million lambs under 65 pounds, 630,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 370,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 260,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep accounted for 80,000 head. Breeding sheep and lambs decreased to 4.64 million head, compared to 4.66 million head in July 2005. The current U.S. breeding herd includes 3.78 million ewes one year old and older, 185,000 rams one year old and older, and 670,000 replacement lambs. The U.S. lamb crop is expected to total 4.10 million head. During the first half of the year 3.62 million lambs were born, with 480,000 head expected to be born from July through December.

U.S. goat inventory totaled 3.47 million head on July 1 2006, up 3 percent from last year. Meat goat inventory rose 120,000 to 2.86 million head. Milk goat inventory was unchanged from one year ago at 320,000 head. Breeding milk goats also remained steady at 270,000 head. Angora goat numbers decreased 2 percent to 285,000 head on July 1, 2006.